What is claimed is:

I claim:

1. A prodrug for use in the treatment of physiological conditions comprising a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl, wherein the carrier moiety is chemically linked to a therapeutic polypeptide of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally.

2. The prodrug of claim 1, wherein *n* is an integer from 3 to 6.

3. The prodrug of claim1, wherein *n* is 5.

4. The prodrug of claim 1, wherein the polypeptide is Tyr-Gly-Gly-Phe-Met.

5. The prodrug of claim 1, wherein the prodrug further comprises a non-therapeutic linker species linking the polypeptide to the carrier species.

6. The prodrug of claim 5, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4 methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl chemically linked to a

therapeutic polypeptide of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, wherein the poylpeptide is poorly absorbed orally, and a pharmaceutically effective adjuvant species.

8. A method for enhancing the oral availability of therapeutic polypeptides of the general formula formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the poylpeptide is poorly absorbed orally, wherein the method comprises the step of chemically linking the polypeptide to a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a prodrug.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

11. A method for the treatment of a physiological condition through the oral administration of a therapeutically effective species comprising the steps of:

a.) chemically linking a therapeutic polypeptide of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the poylpeptide is poorly absorbed orally, to a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl,

phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a prodrug; and

b.) orally administering the prodrug to a patient exhibiting the physiological condition.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

14. A method for the controlled release administration of a therapeutically effective polypeptide of the general formula aa_n, where *aa* is an amino acid or a chemical or structural variation thereof, where *n* is an integer from 2 to 10, and wherein the polypeptide is poorly absorbed orally, comprising the steps of:

a.) chemically linking the polypeptide to a carrier moiety selected from the group comprising cinnamoyl, benzoyl, phenylacetyl, 3,4-methylenedioxycinnamoyl and 3,4,5-trimethoxycinnamoyl to form a prodrug; and

b.) orally administering the prodrug to a patient.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the polypeptide is chemically linked to the carrier moiety through a non-therapeutic linker species.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the linker species is an amino acid.

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